

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 654

By Marsh

A RESOLUTION to recognize Alben Simmons on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Albert “Al” Simmons, longtime Deputy Base Civil Engineer with the Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC), is one such estimable person who has served his community with distinction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simmons will take a much deserved retirement after forty-one years of distinguished public service; and

WHEREAS, Al Simmons was born in Shelbyville and graduated from Shelbyville Central High School in 1962; and

WHEREAS, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering science from Tennessee Tech University in 1967, a Master of Science degree in engineering mechanics in 1968, and he completed post-master’s work at the University of Tennessee Space Institute; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simmons first worked with The Boeing Company in Huntsville, Alabama, during which time he developed the Saturn Stage IV Rocket Booster; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Al Simmons joined AEDC as a Mechanical Design Engineer in the Arnold Research Organization’s (ARO) J-test Operations Branch; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Mr. Simmons became a Stress Analyst at MicroCraft, Inc., in Tullahoma, where he designed and analyzed wind tunnel models and their support systems, including NASA models for Fairchild-Hiller’s prototype of the Air Force’s A-10 “flying bath tub” and the NASA Booster Orbiter, both of which were later tested at the AEDC; and

WHEREAS, Al Simmons returned to the AEDC in 1972 as a Structural Analyst, again in J-test Operations, and completed his ARO career as a project engineer in the Engineering Support Facility; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, Mr. Simmons began work in the Directorate of Procurement as the first AEDC Quality Engineer, leading the integration of the design engineering efforts of three operating contractors, including the development of AEDC engineering standards for pressure piping, pressure vessels, design drafting, acquisition specifications, welding, and data measurement; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Al Simmons was named the Director of the AEDC Systems Engineering and Configuration Management and Director of Total Quality Management in the Deputy for Operations; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Mr. Simmons returned to civil engineering, accepting the position of Deputy Base Civil Engineer. In 2002, he led the contract team that developed the Mission Support performance work statement for the current AEDC operating contract; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Al Simmons was recognized by the Air Force Materials Command with the Harry P. Reitman Award for Engineering Excellence; and

WHEREAS, a well-respected member of his community, Mr. Simmons has served with acumen and alacrity for more than nine years as the President of the Bedford County Historical Society and he is a forty-two-year veteran of TSSAA officiating; and

WHEREAS, he is an active and devout member of the Southside Church of Christ, which he faithfully serves as the Adult Sunday School teacher; and

WHEREAS, his innumerable accomplishments aside, Al Simmons is also deeply devoted to his family and he always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is perhaps most proud of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Mary Ruth Logan, and their daughter; and

WHEREAS, Al Simmons exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to his family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Simmons has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Alben "Al" Simmons our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.